

MEDIA ACCESS OFFICE NEWS

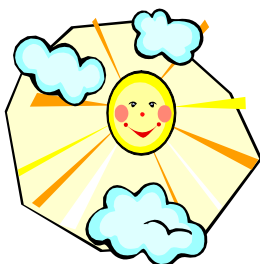


Disability Resource to the Entertainment Industry

M.A.O. MEMBER APPEARANCES

Codes:

AL-Leg Amputee B-Blind
CP-Cerebral Palsy D-Deaf
DD-Developmental Disability
Ds-Down syndrome
HI-Hearing Impaired
ID-Invisible Disability
LP-Little Person MI-Mobility Impaired O-Other
PWD-Performers With Disabilities
VI-Visually Impaired WU-Wheelchair User



M.A.O. MEMBERS AND OTHER KNOWN PWD WHO ARE SERIES REGULARS/RECURRING

Michael J. Anderson (LP) as Samson
"Carnivale" - HBO

Deanne Bray (D) as Sue Thomas
"Sue Thomas F.B. Eye" - PAX

Robert David Hall (AL) as Coroner Dr. Robbins
"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" - CBS

Anita Hollander (AL) as Shelley
"All My Children" - ABC

Geri Jewell (CP)
"Deadwood" - as Jewel - HBO and
"The Young & the Restless" - as Rose - CBS

Mitch Longley (WU) as Barry "Bear" Caldwell
"Joan of Arcadia" - CBS
and as Surveillance Team Member Mitch
"Las Vegas" - NBC

'Regulars' Bios

Character actor **Robert David Hall** is seen every week on the #1 rated drama in prime time television, playing quirky coroner 'Dr. Albert Robbins' on the Emmy-nominated CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. In his 20-year career, Hall has amassed numerous credits in film and television. His feature film work has included roles in "The Negotiator," starring Kevin Spacey, and "Starship Troopers". One of the most prominent disabled actors working today, it was Hall's role as a burn survivor in "Class Action" which closely parallels his real life. In 1978, an 18-wheel truck struck Hall's car and he was severely burned when his gas tank exploded. After several months in a burn unit and the amputation of both legs, he today walks comfortably on two prosthetic limbs. Hall's appearance in "Class Action" led to television guest-starring roles in "Brooklyn South," "Touched By An Angel," "The West Wing," and "Highway to

Heaven," and recurring roles on "L.A. Law," "Family Law," "The Practice," and "Life Goes On". He also appeared in the TNT Emmy-winning mini-series "Andersonville". Musically, he plays guitar and, in the past, has sung in several bands. For more than four years, he was the daytime voice and music director of KNX-FM, a legendary CBS alternative music station in Los Angeles.

A devoted community activist, Hall proudly serves on the board of directors of the National Organization on Disability. He just completed his term as a National Board Member of the Screen Actors Guild and is National Chairman of the Performers with Disabilities Caucus for SAG, AFTRA and EQUITY. He sits on the boards of The Mark Taper Forum's Other Voices Project, and the Media Access Office and is a member of the Mutual Amputee Foundation, for which he visits recent amputees. In demand as a public speaker, he spends time speaking to organizations such as the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, the Amputee Coalition of America, and the World Burn Congress.

In 2002 and 2003, Hall was nominated for a "SAG Award" with the "CSI" cast. The cast also won this year's "People's Choice Award" for best Television Drama. In 1998, Hall won the Harold Russell Award from the Media Access Office, presented to an actor who serves as a role model for other disabled actors. Hall, who graduated from UCLA, is a husband and father of an adult son, Andrew.

TELEVISION APPEARANCES



'Unmasked: Treacher Collins Syndrome'

Where: Discovery Channel

When: June 3rd at 8:00 pm & 11:00 pm (EST); June 5th at Noon (EST), check local listings for channel/times.

M.A.O. member **Lidia DiFrancesco (O)** will be on this program to talk about her life as a teenager with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a rare hereditary condition that results in physical abnormalities of the face.

THEATRE APPEARANCES



'Summertime'

Where: Boston Court, 70 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena.

Reservations: (626) 683-6883 or www.bostoncourt.com.

When: Opens 6/5, through 7/11 - tickets are \$25 - \$30.

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June 2004

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M.A.O. member **Marcia deRousse (LP)** is featured in Charles Mee's collage of existing text and pieces of pop culture in this riotous, poignant and giddy exploration of the nature of love.



'Brush-up Your Shakespeare'

Where: Horseshoe Theatre, L.A. Valley College
5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys

Info/Reservations: Mary Rings at (818) 345-5057.

Suggested Donation: Adult \$7.00, Children/Seniors \$5.00

When: Saturday June 5 at 7PM, Sunday June 6 at 2PM

Born to Act Players' delightful Shakespearean performance features MAO members **Kevin Ewing (Ds)**, **Craig Jaffe (DD)**, **Kristine Johnson (Ds)**, **Marcia Landeros (Ds)**, **Adrian Lopez (Ds)**, **Jessica Morgan (Ds)**, **Casey Powell (Ds)**, **Ben Sparling (AL)**, **John Tucker (Ds)**, **Andrew Warren (Ds)**, **Blair Williamson (Ds)** and **Christine Young (Ds)**. Also performing with the cast is M.A.O. instructor **David Zimmerman**.



'What Are You ... Deaf?'

Where: Deaf West Theatre, 5112 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood

Info/Reservations: 818-762-2773; TTY: 818-508-8389

When: Now through June 20, Thurs.-Sun.

World Premiere of this one-man show written and performed by M.A.O. member **CJ Jones (D)**, an insightful, comedic journey about his experiences as a deaf African-American and the absurd misperceptions encountered in both the deaf and hearing worlds.

Congratulations to M.A.O. Members

Marina Isabella-Post (MI) was on ABC's **Jimmy Kimmel Live Show** on April 12th, appearing as a guest with her 4 turtles. **Dena Diamond's (B)** song "Feed The Kitty" is featured on the new CD "Be Pretty, Be Naked, Be Quiet" by the Rumble Bees on the Rhino/Warner Bros. label, available in record stores on June 7. **Hannah Kritzeck (LP)** was a special guest at a Make-a-Wish Foundation Fundraiser recently, where she wowed the audience with her rendition of 'Over the Rainbow', dressed in Dorothy's costume from the Wizard of Oz. She will be repeating her performance in San Francisco over the July 4th holiday for the National Little People Conference. **Fred Michael Beam (D)** appeared in the children's play **Liang and the Magic Paintbrush** at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland in April and May. Apologies to **Jody Lee Olhava (MI)** for misspelling her name last month in the blurb about her film **Mamochka**. Should anyone want free passes to the Thunderbird Film Festival in Utah where the film is showing, contact Jody at jloha@irisfilmintl.com. For more info, check out www.thunderbirdfilmfestival.suu.edu/. **Lisa Zion**

(O-Polio) is cast in the role of Emily in the independent film **When Gods Wore Grease**, currently filming in Temecula, CA. **Tyler Fortin (CP)** from Vancouver, Canada, the winner of the 2001 Norman G. Brooks Stand Up Comedy Scholarship Competition, is appearing as part of the VSA Arts Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, June 9-12. For more info check out his web site at www.tylerfortin.com and the festival's web site at www.vsartsfestival.org.

Reminder to M.A.O. Members – We would like to have your appearances in film, television & theatre mentioned in the newsletter in a **timely** fashion. Please email DGordy@edd.ca.gov with your info by the *third week of the month prior to the month in which you will appear*.

Disability Film Festivals

Perspectives, the 2nd annual showcase of international narrative & documentary films about the lives of people with developmental disabilities will take place on June 4-6. The festival will be held at ArcLight Hollywood, 6360 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood. For more info, call (213) 383-1300, ext. 647 or go online at www.Perspectives-iff.org. The centerpiece of the festival is a Forum for members of the media community held on June 6. Among the speakers on this year's panel will be former M.A.O. Talent and Industry Relations Coordinator **Gail Williamson** and former M.A.O. Committee Chair **Paul Miller, Ph.D.** Following the Forum is the presentation of the PERSPECTIVES Media Award, given to an individual, group or corporate entity that has advanced the cause of understanding and social acceptance of people with developmental disabilities. We are pleased that this year's award will be presented to the Media Access Office, and will be accepted by Dr. Miller and M.A.O. Program Director **Gloria Castañeda**.

Superfest, an international festival honoring films about disability is now in its 24th year and will be presented in Berkeley on June 5-6. The festival is the primary project of CDT (Corporation on Disabilities and Telecommunication), whose Executive Director is M.A.O. member **Liane Yasumoto (WU)**. Liane will co-host the awards ceremony on June 6 with **Douglas Gordy, Ph.D.**, M.A.O. North's Program Director. For more information and a schedule of the films being shown, several of which feature M.A.O. members, go to: www.madknight.com/cdt/superfest/screening.htm.

HOLLYWOOD NETWORKING BREAKFAST

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Kurt Inderbitzin –
(Independent) Film Producer/Writer/Director

With 8 films to his credit and an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago, Kurt has a comprehensive understanding of both the creative and financial side of filmmaking. While Kurt was President of Abandon Pictures, **(Continues...)**

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they produced the independent films *Scotland, P.A.*, a Sundance Film Festival selection; *Oxygen*, starring Oscar winner Adrien Brody; and *Pros and Cons*, as well as the prime-time series *Glory Days*, *Project Greenlight*; and the MOWs *Time Shifters* and *The Brink*. Kurt also wrote, produced, and directed the ultra-low budget independent feature film *Welcome to the Neighborhood*, which won three "Best of Fests" at film festivals. Kurt also previously served as Vice President of Orly Adelson Productions, where he developed and/or produced 21 TV MOWs in 3 years. Kurt has also written or produced seven television films for CBS, NBC, ABC, USA, Lifetime and TBS and worked for a year as a writer/consultant on TNT's original dramatic series *Bull*. Some of the areas Kurt will cover include the script; raising money; business plans; casting; editing; marketing and PR; Q & A.

Thursday, June 24, 2004, 8AM-10:30 AM. Wyndham Bel Age Hotel, 1020 N. San Vicente, West Hollywood, CA 90069. Check-in starts at 7:20 AM. On-time reservations: **\$25.00** per person. Checks must be postmarked by June 17, 2004, to be considered "on-time". Make checks payable to: **Changing Images In America**, P.O. Box 2688, Hollywood, CA 90078. **(310) 477-0996**, ext. 3. Your check is your confirmation. You **MUST** list your contact phone number and the names of all guests who are included on your check. For additional Breakfast Guidelines and policies, including late reservations and walk-ins, go to: www.changingimagesinamerica.org.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Appointments

Due to staffing limitations and increased time constraints, it is requested that MAO members who wish to consult with Gloria in the LA office make an appointment prior to dropping by. Drop-ins from now on will be accommodated ONLY on a very limited and time-available basis. To save yourself a needless trip to the office, you are strongly encouraged to call (818) 752-1196 prior to coming in, if you wish to speak with Gloria.

M.A.O. Members – The office is compiling statistics and tracking results of auditions and work that Performers with Disabilities have done. It is VERY important that you please be sure to call the Reporting Line when you have an audition or work.

REPORTING LINE
(818) 753-3425 (North Hollywood)
(925) 602-1542 (M.A.O. North)

Looking for information about us?
Get more info about the work of the **Friends of the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Inc.** and the Media Access Office at:
www.disabilityemployment.org



JOIN THE FUN & CHEER FOR YOUR FAVORITE COMIC!

**What: 5th ANNUAL NORMAN G. BROOKS
M.A.O. STAND-UP COMEDY
SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

When: Wednesday, June 23, 2004

**Where: IMPROV 
8162 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90046**

**Time: Doors Open: 6:30PM
Show: 7:30PM**



Tickets and additional info is available at (310) 388-4668.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$25 FOR MAO MEMBERS (IN ADVANCE), \$50 AT THE DOOR. VIP TICKETS AT \$100 (includes front row seating, complimentary parking, appetizers and drinks) and \$300 (includes everything at \$100 price, plus seating with the celebrity judges) also available.

*Do you have information for the Newsletter?
Write, phone, or fax us at:*

The Media Access Office
4640 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 305
N. Hollywood, CA 91602
(818) 752-1196 Voice (818) 753-3426 Fax
(818) 753-3427 TTY

Media Access Office – North
363 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 602-1542 Voice (925)-602-1540 Fax
711 for CA Relay Service

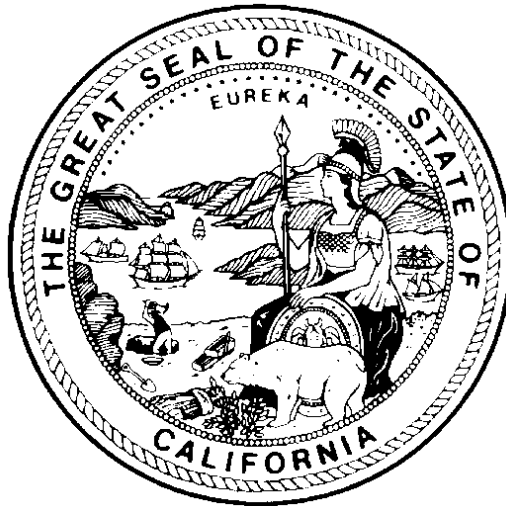
REACH US VIA E-MAIL:

Gloria M. Castañeda – GCastane@edd.ca.gov
(Send Gloria an e-mail if you would like to receive last minute M.A.O. information or announcements via e-mail.)

Dr. Douglas Gordy (M.A.O. North) – DGordy@edd.ca.gov

The Media Access Office is staffed by the Employment Development Department and the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Volunteers and in-kind donations provided through the Friends of the CGCEPD, Inc., support the office.❖

June 2004



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NORMAN M. OWEN, ESQ.

CHAIR

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

CATHERINE KELLY BAIRD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

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